

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for reversing the clearance of a previously executed derivatives trade, in which a buyer and a seller have executed the trade in a derivatives exchange or in an over the counter market, the method comprising:

storing data, in a memory, indicating that the executed trade has been accepted;

in response to an electronic request from a user, retrieving the accepted-trade data from the memory;

displaying the retrieved data to the user on a user interface;

receiving an input from the user indicating that the acceptance of the executed trade should be negated;

in response to the received input, generating an offsetting transaction record for the buyer and an offsetting transaction record for the seller, in which the buyer's and seller's roles are reversed from what they were in the executed trade; and

repeating the storing step using the offsetting transaction records for the buyer and seller, thereby negating the acceptance of the executed trade.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the buyer's record of the executed trade and the seller's record of the executed trade;

comparing the buyer's record and the seller's record to determine whether certain fields in the buyer's record match equivalent fields in the seller's record; and

based on the comparing step, accepting the executed trade.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a matched trade from an electronic exchange or over the counter market, wherein the matched trade represents the executed trade; and

accepting the matched trade.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the displaying step comprises:

transmitting, to a remote computer, a graphical user interface comprising a plurality of rows and columns, wherein each row represents a particular derivatives trade that had

been previously executed and accepted, and each column represents a piece of information concerning the particular trade.

5. The method of claim 2,

wherein the buyer and seller represent participants of a clearinghouse or are customers of clearinghouse participants;

wherein the buyer bought the derivative from the seller on a first trading day;

wherein the step of receiving the buyer's and the seller's records of the executed trade comprises receiving, in the buyer's record and in the seller's record, data that identifies the commodity that was traded, identifies the buyer and the seller, and identifies the price at which the commodity was traded;

wherein the step of accepting the executed trade comprises assuming one or more obligations of the buyer and seller with respect to the executed trade;

the method further comprising:

tallying up all of the gains and losses for both the buyer and seller at the end of the first trading day, including the trade carried out between the buyer and seller, and crediting or debiting the bank accounts of the buyer and seller based on the results of the tallying step;

tallying up all of the gains and losses for both the buyer and seller at the end of a second trading day, taking into account offsetting transaction records, and crediting or debiting the bank accounts of the buyer and seller based on the results of the tallying step, thereby negating the acceptance of any previously executed trades that are intended to be negated by any offsetting transactions.

6. The method of claim 2,

wherein the buyer and seller represent participants in a clearinghouse;

wherein the buyer and seller executed the trade on a first trading day;

wherein the step of receiving the buyer's and the seller's records of the executed trade comprises receiving, in the buyer's record and in the seller's record, data that identifies the commodity that was traded, identifies the buyer and the seller, and identifies the price at which the commodity was traded;

the method further comprising:

tallying up all of the gains and losses for both the buyer and seller at the end of a first trading day, including the executed trade, and crediting or debiting the bank accounts of the buyer and seller based on the results of the tallying step;

wherein the displaying step further comprises transmitting, to a remote computer, a graphical user interface comprising a plurality of rows and columns, wherein each row represents one of a plurality of derivatives trades that had been previously executed and accepted, and each column contains one of a plurality of pieces of information concerning each of the plurality of derivatives trades; and

tallying up all of the gains and losses for both the buyer and seller at the end of a second trading day, taking into account offsetting transaction records, and crediting or debiting the accounts of the buyer and seller based on the results of the tallying step, thereby negating the effect of the previous acceptance of any executed trades that are intended to be negated by any offsetting transactions.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the graphical user interface is a web page, and the plurality of pieces of information comprises: the date on which the plurality of trades were accepted, the broker that executed the trade underlying the trade, and the commodity that was traded.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the buyer and the seller are participants in a clearinghouse, wherein there is a first party to the executed trade, who is either the buyer or the seller, and there is a second party to the executed trade, who is on the opposing side of the first party, wherein the user represents the first party to the executed trade, the method further comprising:

displaying a message to the second party on a display screen, wherein the message queries the second party regarding whether the second party agrees that the executed trade should not have been accepted; and

receiving an input from the second party that indicates that the second party agrees that the executed trade should not have been accepted.

9. The method of claim 2,
wherein the buyer and seller represent participants in a clearinghouse;

wherein the buyer and seller executed the trade on a first trading day;

wherein the step of receiving the buyer's and the seller's records of the executed trade comprises receiving, in the buyer's record and in the seller's record, data that identifies the commodity being traded, identifies the buyer and the seller, and identifies the price at which the commodity was traded;

the method further comprising:

tallying up all of the gains and losses for both the buyer and seller at the end of the first trading day, including the executed trade, and crediting or debiting the bank accounts of the buyer and seller based on the results of the tallying step;

wherein the displaying step further comprises transmitting, to a remote computer, a graphical user interface comprising a plurality of rows and columns, wherein each row represents one of a plurality of trades that had been previously executed and accepted, and each column contains one of a plurality of pieces of information concerning each of the plurality of trades;

tallying up all of the gains and losses for both the buyer and seller at the end of a second trading day, taking into account offsetting transaction records, and crediting or debiting the bank accounts of the buyer and seller based on the results of the tallying step, thereby negating the effect of the acceptance of any executed trades that are intended to be negated by any offsetting transactions;

displaying a message to the second party on a display screen, wherein the message queries the second party regarding whether the second party agrees that the executed trade should not have been accepted; and

receiving an input from the second party that indicates that the second party agrees that the executed trade should not have been accepted.

10. A method for generating a graphical user interface for the entry of completed derivatives trades, the graphical user interface comprising a plurality of data entry fields for receiving data regarding the completed derivatives trades, the method comprising:

receiving a log-in comprising the identity of a user;

based on the identity of the user, selecting a profile from a plurality of profiles, the profile representing which data entry fields of the plurality are to be populated with default

values, what the default values are, and which of a plurality of information fields are to be displayed on the user interface; and

generating the graphical user interface in accordance with the profile.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the plurality of data entry fields comprises a field for identifying the commodity on which the traded derivative is based, and a field for identifying a broker who executed the trade.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the plurality of information fields comprises a trade execution time field and an order type field.

13. The method of claim 10,
wherein the plurality of data entry fields comprises a field for identifying the commodity on which the traded derivative is based, and a field for identifying a broker who executed the trade; and

wherein the plurality of information fields comprises a trade execution time field and an order type field.

14. The method of claim 10, further comprising:
displaying the graphical user interface in a first frame;
checking a message queue;
retrieving an alert message from the queue;
displaying the alert message to the user in a second frame.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the alert message relates to post-trading activity.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein the alert message alerts the user that all post-trading activity needs to stop.

17. The method of claim 10, wherein the user is a first participant in a derivatives trading clearinghouse, the method further comprising:

providing, to the first participant, a first graphical user interface having a list of a plurality of the user's trading positions;

receiving, from the first participant, a selection of one of the plurality of derivative trading positions;

receiving, from the first participant, an indication that the first participant wishes to transfer the selected derivative trading position to a second participant in the derivatives trading clearinghouse;

providing, to the second participant, a second graphical user interface that queries the second participant regarding whether the second participant wishes to assume the trading position itself;

receiving, from the second participant, an acceptance of the trading position; and

in response to receiving the acceptance, transferring the position from the first participant to the second participant.

18. The method of claim 17,

wherein the trading position is a long or a short position on a derivative, and

wherein the transferring step comprises editing a database so that the long or short position ceases to be associated with the first participant and starts being associated with the second participant.

19. The method of claim 10, wherein the user is a first participant in a derivatives trading clearinghouse, the method further comprising:

providing, to the first participant, a first graphical user interface having a money entry field;

receiving, from the first participant, an entry of an amount of money in the money entry field;

receiving, from the first participant, an indication that the first participant wishes to transfer the entered amount of money to a second participant in the derivatives trading clearinghouse;

providing, to the second participant, a second graphical user interface that queries the second participant regarding whether the second participant wishes to accept the money;

receiving, from the second participant, an acceptance of the money; and

in response to receiving the acceptance, transferring the money from a bank account of the first participant to a bank account of the second participant.

20. A method for reconciling unmatched records of derivatives trades, wherein the derivatives trades occurred in a derivatives exchange, wherein the derivatives exchange has a plurality of participants, the method comprising:

receiving a login from a user;

retrieving, from a database, a plurality of trade records, each trade record representing a derivatives trade in which a first participant of the plurality was either a buyer or a seller, each trade record being designated as unmatched;

displaying the plurality of trade records on a graphical user interface;

receiving, from the user via the graphical user interface, a selection of a first record and a second record of the plurality, wherein the first participant is listed as the buying party in the first record and a second participant of the plurality is listed as the buying party in the second record, and wherein the first and second record represent opposite sides of the same underlying trade;

in response to the user selection, automatically editing the contents of the first record so that the contents become identical to the contents of the second record; and

storing the edited contents of the first record in the database.

21. The method of claim 20, further comprising:

receiving from the first participant an entry of the contents of the first record;

searching the database for another record that represents the opposite side of the same underlying trade as the first record; and

upon failing to locate another such record, designating the first record to be unmatched.

22. The method of claim 20, further comprising:

receiving from the first participant an entry of the contents of the first record;

searching the database for another record that represents the opposite side of the same underlying trade as the first record;

upon failing to locate another such record, designating the first record to be unmatched;

after the storing step, matching the first record and the second record; and

after the matching step, accepting the underlying trade represented by the first and second records.

23. The method of claim 20, wherein the displaying step comprises sorting the plurality of trade records in such a way as to increase the likelihood that records that could match one another are ordered close together.

24. The method of claim 20, wherein the listing step comprises sorting the plurality of trade records in such a way as to increase the likelihood that records that could match one another are ordered close together, the method further comprising:

receiving from the first participant an entry of the contents of the first record;

searching the database for another record that represents the opposite side of the same underlying trade as the first record;

upon failing to locate another such record, designating the first record to be unmatched; and

after the storing step, matching the first record and the second record; and

after the matching step, accepting the underlying trade represented by the first and second record.